

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY.

BEGINNING THE WORK OF LAYING THE PED- ESTAL FOUNDATIONS.

Gen. Charles P. Stone, the engineer in charge, will begin excavating on Wednesday for the foundation of the pedestal upon which the statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World" is to stand. He said last night that a satisfactory basis of gravel and boulders had been found upon which to lay the concrete. The examination of the ground was begun last month, and two shafts had been sunk to discover of what the under stratum consisted. The pedestal would be completed, he said, next Summer and the following Fall would see the statue in place. He did not, as an engineer, think that it would be safe to put up such a mass of masonry, intended to stand so long, in one season. There would be a cessation of work during the Winter months to allow the masonry to settle. The work was expected to endure for a long period, and he certainly proposed to make the pedestal enduring. Measures had been taken to secure the most handsome and lasting stone. Gen. Stone said that there was good reason to be enthusiastic over the noble monument, and he hoped the American people would not hesitate to contribute to make up the required amount. In France the subscription was in francs and half-francs, and he would like to see the people here follow this example. The excavation will be begun in the centre of Fort Wood, on Bedloe's Island. This fortification is a star fort, which was built in 1814. The ramparts are of blocks of gneiss, well laid, which will be allowed to remain. The excavation will be 64 feet square, will extend to a depth of 15 feet, and will occupy a good share of the little parade-ground. This hole will be filled with concrete, which will reach nearly to the surface, and upon this the masonry will be laid. The pedestal, which will rise to a height of 150 feet, will taper off until at the top it will be 40 feet square. When the statue, 148 feet high, is placed on the pedestal, its greatest altitude will be 300 feet. The walls of the fort making a girdle in the shape of a star will not detract from the pedestal, but add to it. At a distance it will appear as a part of it.

The Hon. William M. Evarts, Chairman of the Statue Committee, said last night that \$100,000 had been raised, and the remainder would come from the people. "I never had any doubt about the money," he said. The committee propose to commence an active campaign to raise funds. Complete drawings of the statue and the interior supports have been received from Bartholdi. The statue is being put together as the work progresses to see that the joints fit; screws instead of rivets are used to hold the parts in place. It will require something like four months to take the statue apart again. It will be ready, it is expected, to send to this country in October or November.